In the Claims:

The following listing of claims is intended to replace the current listing of claims:

1 -48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for preparing a space in the human spine to receive an insert between adjacent vertebral bodies, comprising:

a shaft having a longitudinal axis;

a housing disposed at a distal end of said shaft, said housing having an upstanding wall;

a drive mechanism;

a power source operably connected to said drive mechanism; and

an abrading element mounted on said housing for movement by said drive mechanism by movement of the shaft, said abrading element having at least one abrading surface selected to create a predetermined surface contour in **an end plate of** one of the adjacent vertebral bodies as said abrading element is moved by said drive mechanism in a direction other than the direction of movement of the shaft.

50. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein said abrading element includes outwardly facing first and second abrading surfaces, and said first and second abrading surfaces are inclined relative to one another.

51. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein said abrading element is detachable from said housing.

52. (Canceled)

53. (Canceled)

53. (Canceled).

54. (Canceled)

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56. (Canceled)

57. (Canceled)

58. (Canceled)

59. (Canceled)

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61. (Canceled)

62. (Canceled)

63. (Canceled)

64. (Canceled)

65. (Canceled)

66. (Canceled)

67. (Canceled)

68.-116. (Canceled).

117. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the abrading element includes a leading edge configured as a bone cutting surface.

118. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the abrading element includes at least one milling surface.

119. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 118, wherein the at least one milling surface is convex.

120. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 118, wherein at least one of the milling surfaces of the abrading element is tapered outwardly from a front surface of said form cutter.

121. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the abrading element is mounted on the housing by an abrading element shaft connected to the abrading element, and supported within the housing by a shaft support.

122. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 121, wherein the abrading element shaft extends perpendicularly from the abrading element surface, and perpendicular from the longitudinal axis of the shaft.

123. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 122, wherein the angle between the abrading element shaft and the shaft is approximately 96°.

124. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the maximum height of the abrading element is nine millimeters.

125. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the abrading element has an abrading surface and a surface opposite the abrading surface.

126. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 125, wherein the surface opposite the abrading surface is provided with a beveled gearing surface.

127. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 126, wherein the drive mechanism comprises a drive shaft having a longitudinal axis, supported by a journal provided with a pinion gear, wherein the pinion gear cooperates with the beveled gearing surface of the abrading element to cause the abrading element to rotate about an axis different from the longitudinal axis of the drive shaft.

128. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the abrading element comprises a groove about its perimeter.

129. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 128, wherein the drive mechanism comprises a drive belt that interacts with the groove to provide a driving force to the abrading element.

130. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for preparing a space in the human spine to receive an insert between adjacent vertebral bodies, comprising:

a shaft;

a housing disposed at a distal end of said shaft, the housing having an upstanding wall;

a drive mechanism;

a power source operably connected to said drive mechanism; and

an abrading element mounted on said housing for movement by said drive mechanism, said abrading element having at least one convex abrading surface selected to create a concaval-convex contour in one of the adjacent vertebral bodies as said abrading element is moved by said drive mechanism.

131. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 130, wherein said abrading element includes outwardly facing first and second abrading surfaces, and said first and second abrading surfaces are inclined relative to one another.

132. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 130, wherein said abrading element is detachable from said housing.

133. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 130, wherein the abrading element includes a leading edge configured as a bone cutting surface.

134 (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 130, wherein the abrading element includes at least one milling surface.

135. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 134, wherein at least one of the milling surfaces of the abrading element is tapered outwardly from a front surface of said form cutter.

136. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 130, wherein the abrading element is mounted on the housing by an abrading element shaft connected to the abrading element, and supported within the mounting member by a shaft support.

137. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 136, wherein the abrading element shaft extends perpendicularly from the abrading element surface, and perpendicular from a longitudinal axis of the shaft.

138. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 137, wherein the angle between the abrading element shaft and the shaft is approximately 96°.

139. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 130, wherein the maximum height of the abrading element is nine millimeters.

140. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 130, wherein the abrading element has an abrading surface and a surface opposite the abrading surface.

141. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 140, wherein the surface opposite the abrading surface is provided with a beveled gearing surface.

142. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 141, wherein the drive mechanism comprises a drive shaft having a longitudinal axis, supported by a journal provided with a pinion gear, wherein the pinion gear cooperates with the beveled gearing surface of the abrading element to cause the abrading element to rotate about an axis different from the longitudinal axis of the drive shaft.

143. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 130, wherein the abrading element comprises a groove about its perimeter.

144. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 143, wherein the drive mechanism comprises a drive belt that interacts with the groove to provide a driving force to the abrading element.